DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE - Public Health Service

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MAR 13 1959
MEDICAL LIBRARY

VOL. XIV, No. 3 WASHINGTON 25, D. C. MARCH 1959

NEW BUILDING NEARER

Great stacks of drawings and specifications for the new building of the National Library of Medicine, representing the architects' final construction plans, are now being reviewed in minute detail in the Public Buildings Service as well as in the Library. The main issues were solved long since, of course, but there is always one more flyspeck of detail remaining, it seems. Stacks in beige or gray? What limitations on color of ordinary office furniture? Can the stacks match furniture? If so, will shelves in stack area and shelves in office area be interchangeable? A 21" or 24" storm drain? Have elevator signals been forgotten? Where will keys to the study carrels be kept? Should this partition really be of metal, or should all be of concrete block? Somehow these points and many more must be resolved within the inexorable pressures of the schedule we have imposed upon ourselves.

Last month the Bureau of the Budget apportioned the construction funds, allowing us to obligate the major construction items in the last quarter of the current fiscal year. On the 23rd of this month bids will be advertised; in mid-June a brief ground-breaking ceremony will be held. The new building is now really under way, just 21 years and 9 months since the 75th Congress held hearings on the original bill, and 41 years since the idea had become substantial enough to be embodied in a painting which has hung, like an albatross, on the wall of the Director's office during these latter days. Sometime soon we will cut the canvas from the frame, roll it up, and hide it in a corner.

NLM CATALOG, 1958

The mounted cards for the National Library of Medicine Catalog, 1958, were sent to the printer last month; publication is expected in the spring. The Library of Congress has again acted as publisher, and has contributed in many ways to the success of the venture.

The author section of the 1958 Catalog contains 21,272 main entries; there are 33,075 cards in the subject section. This will be the largest annual Catalog since inception of the program in 1950; the next largest volume is that issued for 1955, which contained 986 pages; the 1958 volume will have 1,031 pages.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN PROCEDURE

The large number of interlibrary loan requests received daily at NLM demands assembly-line procedures for filling them. It follows that correct, verified references will flow quickly through the Loan Unit to reach the borrowing library without delay. We are grateful to all who obey the first commandment to "verify your references," and one of the by-products of accepting loan requests only from other libraries is the greater number of correct references now being received. Nevertheless, we continue to receive unverified citations which, because of errors in journal titles, authors, volume numbers, dates, or pagination, cannot be pulled from our stacks on the initial search. Most of these are corrected by the Loan Unit's routine checking of volume indexes or the ordinary tools such as the Index-Catalogue, Index Medicus, QCIM, CLML, Union List of Serials, and various NLM printed and card records.

An average of ten requests per day cannot be verified in these sources. This is approximately the same percentage of errors requiring lengthy search as that reported by Hodgson and Kidder (C&RL 13:336-41 (1952)). Incorrect citations from libraries with well-endowed reference collections are returned for verification without further work by our staff; also returned immediately are those which supply so little information that searching is impossible. Requests from libraries without extensive bibliographic resources and those which indicate that searching has been attempted in the borrowing library are given fuller "reference question" treatment. We have recently begun to record statistics on the kinds of errors from various types of libraries and hope eventually to compare our experience with that reported by other interlibrary loan services.

PILOT RUN

Plans are being drawn to run off the forthcoming volume of Bibliography of Medical Reviews on our Listomatic camera equipment. This will serve as a pilot study in the project to mechanize the composition of the Current List. Volume 4 of BMR will contain over 3.200 review articles, and should be available by midsummer.

DARWIN EXHIBIT

The new exhibit at the National Library of Medicine commemorates the sesquicentennial of the birth of Charles Darwin and the centennial of the publication of the Origin of Species. On display will be portraits and works of Aristotle, Buffon, Cuvier, Haeckel, Hooker, Lamarck, Lederberg, Lyell, Mendel, Tatum, and Wallace.

The Darwin books and papers to be exhibited include The Voyage of the H. M. S. Beagle, the first edition of On the Origin of Species, along with the preliminary essays of 1842 and 1844 and the Darwin-Wallace paper presented at the meeting of the Linnaean Society in 1858, the Autobiography, The Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication and The Descent of Man.

The exhibit also includes a portrait of Darwin, a view of Darwin's study, and a map of the voyage of the Beagle. This exhibit will remain in place through March and April; it was prepared by Mrs. Katherine Uhler of the Reference Division.

RECENT 16TH-CENTURY ACQUISITIONS

Parva Hippocratis tabula, Wittenberg, 1519. (Edited by Petrus de Burchardis)

Divini Hippocratis Aphorismorum [et Prognosticorum] paraphrasis poetica, auctore Andrea Ellingero, Francofurti, Apud Andream Wechelum, 1579.

Avicenna. Libri tertii fen secunda ... de aegritudinibus nervorum. Parisiis, Apud Martinum Jevenem, 1570.

Campani, Niccolò. Lamento ... sopra el male incognito. Venice, 1537. (A poem on venereal disease)

Fracantianus, Antonius. De morbo gallico. Bononiae, Peregrinus Bonardus, 1564.

Massa, Nicola. Liber de febre pestilentiali, ac de pestichiis, morbillis, variolis, & apostematibus pestilentialibus, Venetiis, Apud Franciscum Bindomen & Maphaeum Pasinum, 1540.

Stabile, Francesco. Brevis quaedam defensio contra nonnullos asserentes pudendorum inflammationem non esse pestis signum. Venetiis, Apud Gratiosum Perchacinum, 1576.

Textor, Benoit. De cancri natura et curatione. Lugduni, Apud Joan. Tornaesium, 1550.

PORTRAIT OF JAMES PARKINSON

In searching for a portrait of James Parkinson (1755-1824), the English neurologist famed for his description of paralysis agitans, it has come to our attention that the portrait of another James Parkinson (1822-1900), an English dentist, has been substituted, in error, in three publications: Medical Classics, 2: facing p. 957 (1938); Medicina Cirurgia Farmacia, Rio de Janeiro, no. 121, facing p. 229 (1946); Treatment Service Bulletin, Ottawa, v. 9: p. 115 (1954). In each case the portrait reproduced is from a group portrait taken at the annual meeting of the British Dental Association in 1885. NLM would like to locate a portrait of the earlier James Parkinson, and will welcome communications on this matter.

PERSONALIA

ADAMS: On March 2 Mr. Scott Adams, Librarian of the National Institutes of Health, will take up his new duties as Director, Foreign Science Information Program, Office of Science Information Services, National Science Foundation.

FULTON: At its recent meeting in Washington the History of Science Society awarded its George Sarton Medal to Dr. John F. Fulton of Yale University in recognition of his achievements in bibliographical and historical studies.

KRONICK: Mr. David A. Kronick, now Librarian of the Medical Library of the University of Michigan, will become Librarian of the Cleveland Medical Library Association on July 1.

MARSHALL: At the end of June Miss Mary Louise Marshall will retire after 39 years of service as Librarian of the Orleans Parish Medical Society and Tulane University School of Medicine.

POSTELL: On July 1 Mr. William D. Postell, Librarian of the School of Medicine of Louisiana State University will succeed Miss Marshall at Tulane.

HOLMES: On February 7, 1959, Dr. Thomas J. Holmes, bibliophile, bookbinder, bibliographer, and former member of the Association of Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library, died at his home in Newbury, Ohio.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, March 22, 1957

59

5-
of
the
ish
ca-
ins
229
115
oup
tal
of
ons

the
ies
of
.

is-
to
his

the
ome
on

all
the
ool

rian
will

nes,
r of
ical

or